

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video signal receiver for receiving a plurality of video channels simultaneously carrying a single video program comprised of video signals, each transmission of said video program on one of said channels being offset by a time interval with respect to the transmission of said video program on another one of said channels, comprising:

memory means for receiving video signals for storage and reproducing stored video signals;

channel selecting means, coupled to said memory means, for selecting one of said video channels and for supplying the video signals carried on the one channel to said memory means and to a display device;

user input means for providing commands from a user; and

control means, coupled to said memory means, said channel selecting means and said user input means, for controlling said channel selecting means to supply a selected channel of video signals to said display device and, in response to a pause command received from said user input means, for controlling said channel selecting means to supply said selected channel of video signals to said memory means and for controlling said memory means to store the video signals carried on said

selected channel as a stored segment and, in response to a resume command received from said user input means, for controlling said memory means to reproduce the video signals of said stored segment.

2. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said memory means has a storage capacity to store video signals transmitted during a time period equal to said interval but said storage capacity is insufficient to store all of said video program.

3. Receiver according to claim 2, wherein said memory means comprises a hard disk drive.

4. Receiver according to claim 3, wherein said memory means further comprises first and second buffer memories.

5. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said user input means comprises a keypad.

6. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said user input means comprises a mouse.

7. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said control means comprises a microcomputer.

8. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said control means, in response to said pause command, controls said memory means to receive the video signals carried on said selected channel, including a last stored video signal, for only a period of time approximately equal to said time interval if said resume command is not received within said period.

9. Receiver according to claim 8, wherein said control means, in response to said resume command, determines a next channel that is next to carry said last stored video signal.

10. Receiver according to claim 9, wherein said control means, in response to said resume command, controls said channel selecting means to supply the video signals carried on said next channel to said memory means and controls said memory means to store said video signals carried on said next channel.

11. Receiver according to claim 10, wherein said control means controls said memory means to reproduce said stored video signals carried on said next channel after reproducing said stored segment.

12. Receiver according to claim 11, wherein said memory means simultaneously stores said video signals carried on said next channel and reproduces said stored segment.

13. Receiver according to claim 11, wherein said memory means simultaneously stores received video signals carried on said next channel and reproduces the stored video signals that had been carried on said next channel.

14. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said memory means simultaneously stores and reproduces video signals carried on said selected channel.

15. Receiver according to claim 1, wherein said control means is operable to control said channel selecting means

to select a preview channel carrying video signals representing a preview of a video program and to supply said preview channel to said memory means, to control said memory means to store the video signals carried on said preview channel as a stored preview segment, and in response to a preview command received from said user input means, to control said memory means to reproduce said stored preview segment.

16. A video signal receiver for receiving a plurality of video channels simultaneously carrying a single video program comprised of video signals, each transmission of said video program on one of said channels being offset by a time interval with respect to the transmission of said video program on another one of said channels, comprising:

memory means for receiving video signals for storage and reproducing stored video signals;

preview storage means for storing video signals representing previews of a plurality of video programs and for storing a first segment of each of said plurality of video programs;

channel selecting means, coupled to said memory means, for selecting one of said video channels and for supplying the video signals carried on the one channel to said memory means;

user input means for providing commands from a user;  
and

control means, coupled to said memory means, said  
channel selecting means and said user input means,

for controlling said preview storage means, in response to a  
preview command received from said user input means, to reproduce  
said video signals representing previews of a plurality of video  
programs,

for controlling said preview storage means, in response to a  
select command received from said user input means, to reproduce  
the first segment of a selected video program which includes a  
segment end video signal,

for determining a next channel that is next to carry said  
segment end video signal,

for controlling said channel selecting means to supply the  
video signals carried on said next channel to said memory means,

for controlling said memory means to store the video signals  
carried on said next channel as a stored segment, and

for controlling said memory means to reproduce said stored  
segment after said preview storage means has reproduced said  
segment end video signal.

17. Receiver according to claim 16, wherein said  
memory means simultaneously stores the video signals carried on  
said next channel and reproduces the stored video signals that  
had been carried on said next channel.

18. A video signal receiver for receiving a plurality of video channels simultaneously carrying a single video program comprised of video signals, each transmission of said video program on one of said channels being offset by a time interval with respect to the transmission of said video program on another one of said channels, comprising:

memory means for receiving video signals for storage and reproducing stored video signals;

channel selecting means, coupled to said memory means, for selecting one of said video channels and for supplying the video signals carried on the one channel to said memory means and to a display device;

user input means for providing commands from a user; and

control means, coupled to said memory means, said channel selecting means and said user input means, for controlling said channel selecting means to supply a selected channel of video signals to said display device and, in response to a pause command received from said user input means, for directing the supply of video signals to said memory means for storage, and, in response to a resume command received from said user input means, for controlling said memory means to reproduce the stored video signals.

19. Receiver according to claim 18, wherein said memory means stores video signals for a period of time approximately equal to said time interval.

20. Receiver according to claim 19, wherein said control means, in response to said resume command, determines a next channel that is next to carry video signals from where the stored video signals end.

21. Receiver according to claim 20, wherein said memory means stores video signals carried on said next channel and reproduces the stored video signals carried on said next channel after finishing reproduction of the stored video signals carried on said selected channel.

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